

DELEGATE GRUMBACHER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I agree fully with Judge Sherbow when he says that this is one of the most important single things which we consider here. I do not agree with him on the way the decision should be made.

Maryland is the only state whose constitution does not allow the legislature to increase the budgets. Others have this by statute. If a legislature wishes to hobble itself, let it do so. But let us not do it here.

The main problem with only being able to cut a budget is that then the temptation is to be destructive, to attack and destroy various items in the budget.

I was here one year when the only thing we seemed to be able to find in the budget to cut were all new positions. If we had been able to do a constructive job we may have found something else to do with the budget, but to show we were doing something, we had to cut somewhere. This was, in this fast-growing State of ours, to cut all new positions.

This kind of thing is very damaging to the legislature and to the budget, and to the State. It was stated a little before, there may be political things going on in the legislature. The legislature might put in things for political reasons. The legislature is not the only body or only part of our government which works for political reasons. There could easily be political reasons behind the budget as presented by the governor. The legislature should have the right to raise the budget within limitations, within the total allocation. This is not an irresponsible thing. This is the responsible way to handle the problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute, Delegate Grumbacher.

DELEGATE GRUMBACHER: Thank you.

It gives the legislature the chance to put in items which it thinks are necessary, and gives the governor the last crack at it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willis, are you still rising for the purpose of asking Delegate Hanson a question?

DELEGATE WILLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair cannot recognize you to do that until persons desiring to speak have finished. There are two others desiring to speak on the matter. I will then recognize Delegate Hanson.

Does any delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Koger.

DELEGATE KOGER: I would like to speak in opposition to the amendment.

First of all, I am positive that at the committee hearings people were told that hearings were to be held on the entire matter of the budget, and people were given the opportunity to air all phases of questions.

If that is true, it appears to me that to further liberalize or change the budget would not appear to be a good thing. I think that should be known, that ample hearings are held where people are given a fair opportunity to speak, and where they can ask questions, and the governor can participate, and all members of the legislature can come in, even the public can ask questions about items of the budget.

I think that should be sufficient to give plenty of airing and give people plenty of opportunity to urge increases or decreases in the budget.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee, I want to make one thing clear. When the Committee on the Legislative Branch met jointly with the Committee on State Finance and Taxation, it was suggested to Chairman Sherbow that there was considerable sentiment in the Committee on the Legislative Branch to grant the General Assembly the power to increase the budget, to which Delegate Sherbow replied, "over my dead body."

We were not then so disposed.

(Laughter.)

Nor do I plead guilty to any homicidal tendency at this time; but I point out to you this particular amendment has three committee chairmen on it. I think with good reason.

The Goodnow Committee report of 1916 really sought to do one very important thing. That was to prohibit deficit financing, and that particular caveat is contained in the report to Governor Harrington. Furthermore, I should make this point as well: that this particular committee was the product of the Democratic Convention of the prior year, and really represented a very responsible bit of activity on the